

SENATE BILL NO. 156

INTRODUCED BY J. O'NEIL

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION PROVIDING BETTER ACCESS TO OUR MONTANA LEGAL SYSTEM BY PROHIBITING UNREASONABLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PROVIDERS OF LEGAL SERVICES IN THE STATE OF MONTANA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Article VII, section 2, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(5) The right to practice law in any court in Montana shall not be denied to any citizen of the United States on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, residency, formal education, or political or religious ideas or because of any quota."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2004 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act and the following:

[] FOR defining authority to govern the practice of law.

[] AGAINST defining authority to govern the practice of law.

- END -

